

there they know what a 99 percent loss ratio means. What that means is that Social Security has been able to operate, function, and be the most efficient governmental agency because it does so with less than 1 percent administrative costs to make sure that Americans receive the benefits that they need.

The truth of the matter is that the Social Security Administration needs more funding so that they can become more efficient because this pandemic has also hit both governmental employees as well as it has our citizens and has made servicing more challenging, which is all the more reason for government not to be talking about cutting Social Security, as our Republican colleagues are, but enhancing Social Security so that both administratively and individually people are getting the services that they need and that they richly deserve. It has been 51 years since Congress has taken any positive action to enhance people's benefits.

Madam Speaker, a gallon of milk cost 72 cents in 1971. Look at the cost today. Look at the burden that people on fixed incomes have.

Help is on the way. The Ways and Means Committee will mark up and send to the floor Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust. A sacred trust is what President Biden labeled Social Security because the American people understand this.

How do they know?

It is simple. We don't have to go back to 1935 and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. We only have to go back to 2008 and 2009, during the Great Recession, when people saw their 401(k) become a 101(k). Yet during that same time period, Social Security never missed a payment—not a pension payment, not a spousal payment, not a dependent child payment, and not a disability payment.

It is America's number one insurance program. It is America's most efficient and effective program, and it needs to be enhanced. It needs to be augmented with benefits that haven't been adjusted in 51 years.

During this same time period—and we could go back, as Chairman NEAL often talks about, to the S&L crisis. What happened during that?

People at the bottom lost everything. People at the top managed to protect their benefits and pensions. And the same was true in 2008 and 2009. People who endured that recession saw their 401(k)s become a 101(k)s. People at the top kept their pensions and benefits.

Thank God for Social Security. Americans understand this, and that is why they overwhelmingly—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—support enhancing these benefits.

Madam Speaker, how can you go home to your district in this pandemic during this time and say to your brothers, your sisters, your mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles, the people you work with, the people in your community whom you go to church with, that no, this is the time to cut benefits?

This is the time we should end Social Security in 5 years?

This is the time we should raise the age so that you can't receive benefits?

How about we do something simple? How about we vote to enhance Social Security? The simple thing is to vote.

If you agree with Senator SCOTT's proposal to end Social Security, then by all means vote for it. Put it out there. Let's contrast the programs: the Democratic initiative to enhance Social Security and the Republican position to cut the benefits.

It would be great to have people join together, as we often do here, and come up with a solution; but instead, we have been waiting for 4 years now on the Social Security Subcommittee and haven't received a single piece of legislation that would address this, that outlines these bills, and that says exactly what they would do to enhance Social Security.

Instead, as has been reported in the news, what these proposals do is end Social Security or cut Social Security. That is death by 1,000 slashes.

Whom are they hurting?

Whom are they slashing here?

Our fellow American citizens.

So if we want to come together, we are open. We have accepted many good ideas that have come forward with regard to enhancing Social Security.

Congress hasn't done its responsibility. There is nothing the President can do through executive authority and nothing the Supreme Court is going to act on.

□ 1845

This requires congressional action. The American people are watching, and either these bodies, the House and Senate, are going to take action or they are going to doom people to Senator SCOTT's proposal to end Social Security in 5 years.

The Republican Study Committee said this is immoral, that Social Security, if nothing was done, would be cut by 24 percent in 2034. They propose raising the age and cutting people's benefits in order to make Social Security solvent.

That is not the way to make the system solvent, on the backs of American people who are already overburdened and suffering.

In this time of inflation, let us make sure that we are sending the relief to the people who need it the most, people who have worked all their lives, paid into a system, and understand that this is an earned benefit.

Rise up, America. Let your elected representatives in the Senate and House know that help is on the way, and either you are for enhancing benefits to deal with inflation during this pandemic or you are for cutting them. Let your message ring loud and clear to elected officials who are about to vote on this very important agenda.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4345. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a transaction pursuant to section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4346. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2017 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities — Community Economic Development and Rural Community Development Programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-4347. A letter from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the Commission's June 2022 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395b-6(b)(1)(D); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1805(b)(1)(D) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(b)(2)); (124 Stat. 332); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-4348. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation (Treaty Doc. 110-10), Section 2(8); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4349. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Immediate Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4350. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4351. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the six-month period ending March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4352. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period of October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4353. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's 67th Semiannual Inspector General Report for the period October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.